minimizing loss to farmers. The advisories cover a wide range of crops comprising cereals, pulses, oilseeds, cotton, jute and other crops like chilies, tomato, onion, potato etc. In the event of loss the farmers covered under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) will be compensated for failure of crops arising from natural calamities, pests and diseases. The scheme is available to all farmers—loanee and non-loanee irrespective of their size of holdings. Besides, under NAIS, small and marginal farmers are entitled to subsidy on the premium charged from them.

Reforms in HOPCOMS

2050. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has sent any proposal to sanction Rs.120 crores to streamline and to introduce reforms in Horticultural Producers' Co-operative Marketing Society (HOPCOMS) in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, what is the present status of the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Government of Karnataka has submitted a project proposal to the Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development for Development of Horticultural Producers' Cooperative Marketing Society (HOPCOMS), Karnataka amounting to Rs.100.41 crore.

(b) The proposal has been examined and returned back to the Government of Karnataka for revision as per the guidelines of Special Project of Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY).

FAO approach for reducing hunger

2051. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations has described the progress made for reducing hunger in the country, so far, as disappointing;